

RECD MAY 05 2008

ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- Isle au Haut

Contact Information:

Name: Robert Webster
Address: 712 Reach Road
Sargentville, ME
04673
Telephone: 359-8400
email: su76@localnet.com

Date Plan Submitted by SAU: April 1, 2008

The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?

☒ YES

☐ NO

(If NO, please explain.)

Alternative Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance ¹
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
system administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
special education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
facilities and maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of teachers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements				
			Yes	No
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? (not required, but encouraged)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 12

Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 12

Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)	
		Yes	No
Geography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demographics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population Density	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Unique Circumstances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

[illegible]

ISLE AU HAUT RURAL SCHOOL

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

**Updated
March 31, 2008**

Maine Island Schools Collaborative

The Maine Island Schools Collaborative includes twelve island schools: Long, Chebeague, Vinalhaven, North Haven, Islesboro, Monhegan, Matinicus, Frenchboro, Islesford, Great Cranberry, Isle Au Haut and Swans. As its foundation MISC will use the Educational Service District Model as outlined by Stephen Bowen of the Maine Heritage Policy Center. The common bond of being island schools which brings us together also makes it extremely difficult to create efficiencies and to attain the state policy objectives as outlined by the state in the new school consolidation law.

Until recently the degree of collaboration among island schools has been limited. MISC has formed as a response to the state expectation that all schools will utilize efficiencies to reduce costs in targeted areas. This collaborative intends to fully explore and, whenever practical, join together to reduce costs. Historically, each of the island schools have had collaborative agreements or working relationships with their mainland neighbors. The Isle au Haut Rural School will continue to work toward further developing their relationships with mainland counterparts, while at the same time developing collaborative cost reductions that benefit the students and communities of all member schools.

In keeping aligned with the intent of the state objectives, MISC proposes to adopt three major goals:

- To to maximize the use of existing resources to benefit all island students
- To look for ways to create efficiencies wherever possible
- To continue to work with mainland neighbors in meeting common objectives

Island schools will participate, to the extent feasible, in the Maine Island School Collaborative with the goal of sharing services, resources, and expertise to maintain and promote the excellence of island education. The Maine Island School

Collaborative will partner with the Island Institute to develop proposals for sharing services, such as:

- Fiscal management
- Technology and data processing
- Library services
- Insurance coverage
- Energy conservation and management
- Staff development
- Curriculum development
- Student assessment and evaluation
- Low-incidence special education services
- Bulk purchasing of supplies
- Distance learning
- Student inter-island programming

Activities:

Representatives from each of the participating islands will meet twice a year to discuss and review potential areas of collaboration to achieve additional cost savings.

Inter-Island professional development activities will be planned on an ongoing basis.

Existing cooperative agreements and conversations with neighboring mainland school systems will be continued and augmented when possible.

Local Cost Containment/Reduction Plans

The Isle au Haut Rural School Committee will examine each of the four cost centers for which the legislature established cost reduction targets: central office administration, building maintenance, special education and student transportation.

1. Administration - The school committee will negotiate with School Union 76 to reduce the cost of central office support functions performed by school union personnel. The 2008-09 expenditure for system administration approved at town meeting and in the budget validation referendum is \$7,712 which is \$1,223 more than 2007-08.

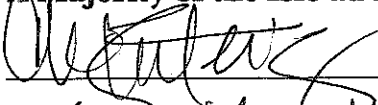
2. Building Maintenance - In recent years the school committee has invested considerable resources in improving and upgrading the school building. The 2008-09 expenditure for building maintenance approved at town meeting and in the budget validation referendum is \$20,150 which is \$147m ore than 2007-08.


3. Special Education - From 1993-94 through the 2005-06 school year , special education expenditures were annually zero or a fraction of 1% of the budget. After the enrollment of the first IAH special needs student in almost a generation, a reduction in special education at this time is unrealistic. Last year Isle au Haut collaborated with the Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School to provide special education speech and occupational therapy services. The Isle au Haut teacher also holds multiple special education and regular education certifications giving the school an efficient way to provide the necessary services. The 2008-09 expenditure for special education approved at town meeting and in the budget validation referendum is \$43,549 which is \$2,929 more than 2007-08.

4. Transportation - The Isle au Haut Rural School contracts with a local citizen for student transportation services at the very reasonable cost of \$7,200 for the year. But several high school students now take the mailboat twice a day to attend Deer Isle-Stonington High School. The mailboat fare costs \$3 per student per trip. The school system pays \$25 per trip for contracted transportation from the mailboat dock to the high school each morning. In the afternoon the Isle au Haut Rural School collaborates with the Deer Isle-Stonington CSD for transportation back to the dock at no charge. The savings for this collaboration alone is equivalent to more than 25% of the overall cost of student transportation. The 2008-09 expenditure for student transportation approved at town meeting and in the budget validation referendum is \$32,655 which is \$3,215 less than 2007-08. The overall 2008-09 school budget was reduced by \$15,804 (-5.77%).


The Isle au Haut School Committee certifies that expenditures in system administration, transportation, special education and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instruction program.

A Majority of the Isle au Haut School Committee



Susan MacDonald


Karen Barth



Dian B. Barry

Given under our hands this thirty-first day of March in the year 2008.

December 14, 2007

Robert Webster, Superintendent
Isle Au Haut School Department
712 Reach Road
Sargentville, ME 04673

Dear Superintendent Webster:

Thank you for the Alternative Plan that you submitted on behalf of Isle Au Haut School Department on December 3, 2007 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete an alternative plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Alternative Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)

- All information submitted as required.
- The actual number of students for which the proposed RSU was fiscally responsible as of October 1, 2006 was 9. I am making you aware of this as this is the enrollment number that will be used in determining Essential Programs and Services funding.

Checklist/Plan Text Items

Items Checked "Complete"

With respect to the items you checked as "complete", please note the following:

*** Required Items**

Each alternative plan must provide projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance in accordance with P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F). Please provide these projected expenditures; and please consider using the guidance offered in the Drummond Woodsum workshop materials.

In Exhibit A, we have included a comparison of (A) the 2007-08 EPS allocations for the four categories of system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance and (B) your unit's 2007-08 budget information (if available) for these four categories. Also included are estimated 2008-09 EPS allocations for system administration, transportation, and facilities and maintenance. I encourage you to review this information. NOTE: If the 2007-08 budget information is missing then it is likely that your unit has not submitted this information to the MEDMS Financial System; please see Administrative Letter # 20, dated 2/13/2007 for instructions.

Please address the requirement in P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F) that "... the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program" by providing an assurance to that effect. Note: We will confirm this assurance against the information that was required to be submitted to the MEDMS Financial System in August, 2007.

A model for budgeting for system administration is available at

The Department of Education will be issuing an RFP to procure routing software to be available statewide. It is the Department's intent to issue the RFP early in 2008 and have a contract signed with a vendor as soon thereafter as possible so that the software will be available to RSUs and municipalities as soon as possible. SAUs may begin to work with the system in FY 2008-2009 but will not be able to budget any cost savings until FY 2009-2010.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan by February 1, 2008. Please include:

- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page

- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education

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